Mercurius Britanicus,

OR

The Englisſh Intelligencer.

A

Tragic-Comedy,

AT *PARIS.*

Acted with great Applauſe.

Printed in the yeare,
1641.

¶ *The Scene Smyrna.*

The Persons.

1. *Euthymius* } Two familiar friends.
2. *Theocritus.* }
3. *Heraclitus* } Two Phylosophers.
4. *Democritus.* }
5. *Ægon* } Rustickes.
6. *Althæa.* }
7. *Claudius*
8. *Cratippus*
9. *Craticius*
10. *Vigetius*, his Ghost feebly appearing.
11. *Trivius*
12. *Curvus Acilius*
13. *Ioachinus*, his Ghost dreadfully appearing.
14. *Hortensius*, appearing amiably.
15. *Antrivius*, appearing friendly.
16. *Damocles*
17. *Gliciscus Heraclitus* } Penall Judges.
18. *Chrysomitrus* }
19. *Brundusius.* }
20. *Primiachus* }
21. *Cambrensis* } A Committer.
22. *Manilius* }
23. *Perdiccas* }
24. *Eugbrysius*, Clearke of the Court.
25. *Roderigo*, Porter.
26. *Arietus* } Citizens of *Smyrna*.
27. *Priscilla.* }

Chor. Of vulgar people.

Chor. Of Parliament men.

The

The Censure of the IVDGES.

OR

THE COVRT CVRE.

Act the first.

Euthimius. Theocritus.

Euthim. MY good friend *Theocritus*; whither away so speedily?

Theoc. Know you not what is this day done in that excellent Schoole of Vertue and literature, that most flourishing, and just Consistory of Peeres and Commons?

Euth. Private imployments have made me a meere stranger to publike affaires. Pray, what is it?

Theoc. Know my *Euthimius*, that this day the Iudges must undergoe Iudgement, those Conscript Fathers whose purple we once adored are now sicke of a *Iudiciall Feaver*, by reason of their corrupt sentence given; to the grievance of the Subject, and favour of their Prince

Euth. Alas! In what a state are we, when Iudges must render an account of their actions upon earth before Iudges?

Theoc. Beleeve me *Euthimius*, they must; nor will they escape the gallowes, if they give not very good satisfaction to that Honourable and grave assembly; nor will they easily so doe: For it is generally said, that they were the very fountaine of all the teares and tumults of this languishing Island.

Euth. Let them all dye, if they have abused the seat of Iudgement; it is much better that *one* perish then an *vnitie*: a luxurious branch, then a fruitfull vine. some kind of mercy is cruelty: by whose remisnesse, or burden rather, every diseased Common-wealth is afflicted: This have I alwaies said, and this renowned Iland hath found it too true by experience: to spare the evill, is an indammagement to the good. But what are these?

Enter Heraclitus and Demecritus.

Theoc. If I should directly expresse their conditions, I should shew you diverse gestures arising from the self same affection. They are; We Phylosophers that jeere and weepe at the passages of the

World. He, *Heraclitus*, plaies the part of a compassionate man, hee is suffus'd with teares, and no sooner sees then sighes at the vanities of men: But the other, *Democritus* derides the age, and scoffeth mens generall folly, setting up this Motto over his doore.

Miserum me video, & rideo:
Infelicem te video, nec invideo.

I see my owne misery and laugh at it: I see thy misery and envie it not. But many there are who doe outwardly rejoyce, but inwardly sigh: they laugh and carroll with their mouthes, but lament and condole with their hearts. This may you soone perceive by their enterchange of discourse.

Her. My good *Democritus*, what is the reason that thou laugheſt?

Dem. Because thou weepest; for what canst thou finde in this spacious Theater of the world, which is worthy thy smallest teare? where servants are made Lords, Lords servants: the Masters head is cut off, the servant riseth up, and climbes into his place: wives bewaile the funerall of their husbands, counterfeit teares, and offer to leape into their graves; and yet before one worme hath entred into the winding sheet, or before the flowres are withered wherewith the coarse was garnished, they entertaine new affections, and kindle new nuptiall tapers: hah, hah, hah.

Herac. These things draw teares from my eies: but what besides, *Democritus*?

Democ. What besides dost thou aske? Get thee *Diogenes* Lanthorne, and thou shalt every where find the spectacles of derision. This man is honoured in the sight of his Prince, enioyeth his delights, stretcheth upon beds of yvory, and is crusht with honours, as with a burthen; he seekes nothing, but he acquires it, he sues for nothing, but he obtaines it; all men that sees his estate admires him, and esteemes him the happiest man upon the earth: in the meane while one small cloud obscureth all these false beames in a day, yea in a minute of an houre, his Prince leaveth him, his glory departeth like a dreame; and his *Atlas* who carried such heapes, such mountaines of honour upon his shoulders, hath his *exit* with reproach: hah, hah, hah. Yet no sooner hath this *Hero* suffered an irrevocable fate, but he is wisht alive againe by them, who in his life and glory prosecuted him with extreamest violence: They hate him alive, lament him dead, and with pious teares desire his restitution: but great mens heads are sooner taken off, then set on againe. In these times it is more securitie to be a foole then a wise man: for a wise mans head is a subiect for the axe, the foole keeps his upon his shoulders: will you heare more?

Her.

Herac. Proceede, deare *Democritus*; theſe conceits are not more pleaſant to thee then my teares are to mee.

Democ. Weepe child, weepe, and that thou maiſt ſeeme the more idle in it, ſee how parents live penurionſly that they may make their ſonnes prodigall the ſooner; yet how they make themſelves deptors to nature, that they may riot the more licentiouſly: walke on, into this moſt ſtately City, looke about thee, thou ſhalt ſee windowes opened and painted faces looking out, inviting thee with their lookes. Thou ſhalt find all things ſaleable in *Troinovant*; the dainty Dames will unty thy purſe ſtrings with a buſſe: out goes the husband, in comes the friend; hah, hah, hah. Thou ſhalt find ſome that reſigne their offices leaſt they ſhould looſe them; others leaving their neſt, that they and their young may not periſh; others that abounded through rapine miſerably exhauſted; others adorned with others feathers, that have caſt their owne. Here thou ſhalt ſee Coblers and huckſters that riſe out of old ſhooes and panniers, beating the Pulpit, and broaching new doctrines, as if they were *Regii Profeſſores*, and held by the rable to bee moſt profound Divinity: yea, I cannot waſh my hands but mee thinkes I ſee the ſoapy *effigies* of *Brunfield* in the Baſon: nor can I goe downe into a celler, but I find the lively ſtatue of Maſter *Abell*; yea I cannot, unty my ſhooe, but I call to mind that patent for Leather, and deride it; For men now truly ſeeme turned into trees bringing forth ſpatious branches, but fruits of vanity: in a word, all the World is full of fooles, and ridiculous in the eyes of *Democritus*.

Herac. It is a vile diſpoſition to ioy in the commodities of others.

Democ. True; but hence it is that I laugh ſo much, becauſe all things are cumbred with their owne diſcommodity.

Herac. In the meane while, they become noxious unto them.

Democ. And iuſtly, my *Heraclitus*; for who if hee were wiſe would not forſake an houſe of clay to come unto an heavenly Dominion? But theſe mad men place their *Elyſium* upon earth, little regarding the future, that they may enjoy the preſent. They demoliſh, build up, they provide cloathes for moaths and edifices for the wind. They no ſooner perceive the hooke of honour, then they greedily ſwallow it; that ſtickes in their throats and they are worthily taken. Nor doe theſe things rage onely in greener minds; for although (as ſayes that *Sicilian*) *It is a prodigy* for a

young man to bee old, ridiculous for an old man to bee young; yet you may see the hoary Elders of this land, that have a foot in the grave, and by their age should have wisedome, or at the least authority and reverence, plunged into most haynous crimes; so that it may truly be said of them, they grow as old in vices as in yeares.

Herac. You speake strangely.

Democ. But very truly of these old dogges. The wolfe will sooner change his haire then his heart: the woll will not easily loose its first colour, nor the vessell its first savour.

Herac. But my hope is that you will find none in this whole Island so wickedly and wretchedly doting, as to preferre worldly wealth before *Elysian* happinesse.

Democ. Goe on and proceed, my dolefull *Heraclitus*, in your madnesse, are there not many I pray of that *Burbon* opinion, that would rather loose their parts in Paradice then in *Paris?* The Judges can witnesse this, those venerable and conscript Fathers, who are this very day in triall for their lives.

Herac. Alas! The Judges.

Democ. I, the Judges. Therefore let us both goe thither: for wee shall there heare many things proportionable to thy teares and convenient for my laughter.

Herac. I will goe very willingly; where if I heare *Iudgement* turned into *Wormewood*, I shall with my teares lament those unhappy Fathers; yea I shall transforme my selfe wholly into a *Niobe*.

Democ. Goe on foole, goe; hah, hah, hah. The whole World is diseased; as many Monopolies as Inhabitants; hah, hah, hah.

Exeunt.

Theoc. Let us follow them, *Euthymius:* There is roome for good store of company.

Euthym. I feare, *Theocritus*, that wee shall not bee admitted, because wee are no members of that Honourable Assembly.

Theoc. Let not that trouble you, there is none that hath good lookes and good cloaths, but hee shall have entrance I warrant you; but who are these?

Enter Ægon, and Althaa.

Euthym. They seeme to bee of the Countrey by their simple discourse. Let us listen to them; for I suspect but little cunning in their coats, they will talke much about matters of State, and their rudenesse will procure us good sport.

Ægon. Newes *Althea*, I have a whole dicker of newes for thee.

Alth. What is that my small friend.

Ægon. I will tell thee a ſecret, my hony: wee ſhall have a *triennial Parliament*, every yeare.

Alth. What is that *triennial*? Doth it belong to the keeping of ſheepe or goats, ſtopping of gaps, or greaſing of ſheepe, tell mee pray?

Ægon. Let that ſuffice, love, that wee ſhall have this good *Trienniall*. As for my part, I muſt needs confeſſe, I know not whether *Trienniall* bee man or woman. But this I know, that for the report of it in the Countrey, wee paſt all the night in making bonfires and playing the good fellow.

Alth. In truth this word doth much trouble mee, my husband once an Academian, now an Heardſman, promiſed to give mee due benevolence every *triennial*, and I did moſt kindly thanke him, yet I did not ſee how hee could performe it once in three yeares.

Ægon. Alack, hee is old, what canſt thou expect from him; goe too now, Let us draw neare to the gate of the Conſiſtory, this day they ſit of many and waighty matters concerning the judges.

Alth. What, are they to be hang'd?

Ægon. I know not that, yet they are in a pittifull caſe, as the old proverbe goes, their Buttocks make buttons.

Alth. Why ſhould wee goe thither, thoſe matters concernes not us, nor are our capacities ſutable for them.

Ægon. How ever let us goe; if wee can heare nothing, invent ſomething againſt wee goe downe into the Countrey, that all that heare us, may bee filled with amazment. *Exeunt Ruſtici.*

Theo. We doe as much thirſt to heare as they, and ſeeing all ſorts flock thither, that wee may make more haſte; Let us ſhut in with them, as wee did all ſhare in the Judges wrongs, ſo let us have a ſhare in their diſgrace.

Euthim. Goe along, I am eaſily intreated to make Holy-day to heare this dayes triall. *Exeunt.*

The ſecond Act.

The doore being opened, the Curtaine drawne, Euchriſius *Clerke of the Court brings out the bookes; calleth the Iudges by name, readeth their inditments; after which* Primiachus, Cambrenſis, *and* Manilius; *by turnes obiect unto them; to whom the Iudges in like manner make their Anſwer.*

Enter

Enter the Ghost of Coriolanus, *&c.*

WHo once did flouriſh and did beare the bell
In theſe aſſemblies as your ſelves can tell;
Whoſe death untimely was, loe yet doth pray
That juſtice in your Courts may ſtill beare ſway:
Conferre pure juſtice candide ſoules to all,
Temper your votes with hony more then gall.
Better thoſe Iudges are that oft doe ſpare,
Then thoſe that anger doe poſſeſſe and war.
Not oyle alone in healing wound is us'd,
But to greene wounds much balſom is infus'd;
Long live the King; let Conſuls glory floate,
Britaine triumph, this *Coriolanus* vote.
Behold him riſen from his ghoſtly Cell
Him, whom the boſterous Commons could not quell,
Nor whetted axe, nor Scaffold, nor black-rod
Nor yet grim death, hee's now a demy-god
Happier much more ſo wretched was his doome
Amongſt the Saints in Heaven now hath roome.
Earths pleaſures, treaſures all farewell, your frowne
I ſcorne, death is a gaine, my grave a Crowne.

Chorus Senatoria.

Chor. Theſe are dire preſages to our houſes, yet to be reverenced for their pious admonitions, wee are to hold them with an unanamous voyce to defend with a generall vote, to bee wag'd with one hand, to bee governed with one heart, yet they are like to returne for want of admittance againe to their ghoſt.

Officers proceed.

Euch. Doe you heare *Roderigo*, bring forth the Priſoners.

Rod. Which muſt firſt come forth.

Primach. Let them bee brought forth in the ſame order, as they did argue. Ignorance of order diſturbes the forme of Iuſtice, for *Ringleaders* in ſinne, the greater ſinners: wee will begin firſt with the firſt, from the puny Iudge to the Lord chiefe Iuſtice, as they ſinned ſeverally, ſo let them anſwer ſeverally, and they ſhall find us more diligent and honeſt in their cauſe, then they were in our caſe of ſhipmoney.

Euchrif.

Entrist. Bring *Claudius* to the barre, hold up thy hand *Claudius*, thou art indicted by the name of *Claudius*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary* 1637, against the peace of the Common-wealth the liberty of the subject and the testimony of thine owne conscience; not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickedly deliver up thy opinion in the case of ship-money to bee paid to the Lord the King, for as much, as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity; What saist thou *Claudius*, art thou guilty of the fact, thou standst indicted of, or not guilty.

Claud. I doe confesse that I did hault in the performance and execution of my office, yet all know that I spake little in the case, and as I was more partiall in defending that errour, so my penalty ought to bee the lesser.

Cambr. This is a poore defence of your cause, if thou hadst argued longer, yea hadst thou beene chiefe of the purple Benchers, it is likely thou wouldst have beene more plentifull and richer in sinne, as your faults were the same; you sinned about ships, so your punishment shall bee the same, you shall have a boat, Charons boat, Hell for your hire.

Dem. How pleasantly doth this haulter hault in his office, it was like to prove a lame businesse when they set the haulter before. Doe you heare Charon? hire more servants, a great burthen is laid upon thee; thou hast a dayly taske set thee, the turbulent troops of Judges rush upon thee; hah, hah, hah.

Clerk. Stand aside *Claudius*: ô *Roderigo* send for *Cratippus* to the barre. Hold up thy hand *Cratippus*, thou art indicted by the name of *Cratippus*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary* 1637 against the peace of the Common-wealth, the liberty of the subject, and the testimony of thy owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickedly deliver up thy opinion in the case of ship-money to be paid to the Lord the King; for as much, as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity; What saist thou *Cratippus*, art thou guilty of the fact, thou standst indicted of, or not guilty.

Democ. Hee hath either an Oxe in his mouth, or a Goblet in guts, that prepudiats his speech.

Manil. O *Cratippus* set no bounds to thy silence, be still, mute, leave of and blush, and know nothing had become thee better

then silence. But pious bashfulnesse is unusuall to prevaricating transgressours. We are informed ô *Cratippus* that thou hast beene too much wedded to bribery, know therefore, thou that didst breath after yellow maulter, shalt loose thy breath with an hempton halter, thou didst extenuate thy vaines, to extend thy gaines, thou knewest all tricks and devices of bribery, therefore all the gates of mercy are barracado'd up against thee, who hast thou in all this conflux and best instructed Ring of Iustice that can rise up in thy defence, that thou ever favour'dst Iustice in any one particular, here is but one or none, thou hadst one but farre unlike thee, to wit *Hortensius* a brother of thine, that sate neare thee on the same bench, but farre distant in conditions; for his opinion in the matter of ship-monies did singularly simpathize with *Crooked Acilius*, they made a pish at all the writs of ease, and the thunderings of that *Runnegado Chrysometres*, they did preferre an odoriferous name farre before all blowne and swellings titles, which good name whosoever shall neglect, is a tyrant to himselfe; that *Hortensius* therefore, who although he hath exchanged life with death, hath left so memorable a memory to all posterity, that all the famous statues, and monuments composed and erected of durable marble, brasse, or ivory shall sooner drop into ashes, then his venerable name amongst the *Britaines* beeforgotten.

Cratip. I confesse my selfe guilty, onely I beseech your Clemency to mitigate my censure: if not as wee did all saile in one ship, so let us all be ferried over in oneboat into the Iland *Anticyra*, where there is plenty of the herbe *Helleborum*, that purgeth the head of folly and madnesse, I would have enlarged my selfe, but that I have gotten a whimsie in my head and a quinsie in my throat which prevents mee.

Democ. I know not whether it doth stand with reason to allow them all *Anticyra*, our Progenitours esteemed diminutive Cottages as Kingdomes, but these have converted the Kingdome into their private houses, and made their owne houses their screenes.

Herac. O deplorable misery of this miserable wretch.

Democ. They are not worthy of a teare, I doe willingly command them to bee mad; see what a just Iudgement hath fallen on *Cratippus* as hee hath alwayes a mercenary tongue to keepe silence, so hee hath now so lost his eloquence and faculty of pleading, that hee hath much adoe to crave pardon for his offence; hah, hah, hah.

Clerk, Call *Corticius* to the barre; Hold up thy hand *Corticius*, thou:

thou art indicted by the name of *Corticeus*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary* 1637. against the peace of the Common-wealth, the liberty of the subject, and the testimony of thine owne conscience; not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickedly deliver up thy opinion in the case of ship-money to bee paid to the Lord the King, for as much, as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity; What saist thou *Corticeus*, art thou guilty of the fact, thou standst indicted of, or not guilty.

Cort. Not guilty.

Clerk. Thou art found guilty, the Lord deliver thee.

Camb. How many things to bee laid in thy dish: first, thou hast wit at will, or wilfully witty, but foolishly wise; none more fluent in speaking the lawes, yea in turning and framing them like a nose of waxe fit for any impression, or like a Gipsies knot, plaid fast and loose; Why didst thou celebrate thy birth day with such solemnity, the fatall felicity of thy head and belly, thy ingenuity and gulosity; It is difficult for a learner to swim without bladders, thou beganst to flutter with the lapwing before thou wert pinfeathered, and to runne with thy shell on thy head. In thy circuite, especially in the County of *Lanc.* (when Master *Farrington* was high Sheriffe, a man of an honest report) thou didst exercise thy tyrannicall faculty, thy dominering carriages made thee to be hated and abhorred of all. Other sinnes have baits laid to bring them into Action, but pride needs no Promoter to evill; but layes traines to surprize goodnesse. He that even now before thy face that was endowed with a 1000. of vertues and graces, yet his Arrogancy overwhelmed the top of his felicity. All other sinnes hide from God, pride alone resisteth her maker. Oh with what boldnesse, yea with what insolence thou didst shew thy selfe an Abettor of that hissed downe sentence of ship-money; as if thou alone hadst got the Monopolies of all wit. Pertinacious sinners deserve more waighty censures, schisme but punished, Heresie condemned, yea damned.

Cort. I call God to witnesse, that I will live and die in this opinion. Shall I not stand to the Authority of those so pithy and learned Fathers in the law, wee have read over so many schedules of particulars, yea the very fragments of the law, the statutes and annals of every yeares proceeding in law affaires. Oh that I might but argue it againe, you should see this my opinion to stand upo firme props and pillars.

Camb. Stand by, thy place is changed for disgrace, thy degree for a tree, thy roabe for a roape.

Democ. What hath his eloquence profitted, hee must now take a turne at *Tiburne*, for not turning from his corrupted opinion, hee that wish'd so well to the Seas, must not bee drown'd but hang'd, for his not wavering hath lost the benefit of the waves, the road to *Antycira*. Whil'st hee doth defend the puppies, must dy a dogs death.

Clerk. Taylor, where is *Vigetius*?

Roder. Wee have not any, called by that name.

Prima. Wee had such an one, who was easily drawne to the opinion of his brother *Corticeus*, yet never did adhere unto him in any other thing, save onely in the plea of ship-money, ever before when hee should argue, hee fained himselfe sick, and when hee did enter the list (hee most fortunately lost his arguments in the street) no man did ever offend with more brevity, and in this one thing gave a tast of his wisedome, in that hee died to prevent his censure. Wee must truly say of him, that hee did once flourish, hee descended from an ancient family, commendable in this one thing, hee studied rather to retaine his patrimony, then for gaine.

The Ghost of Vigetius *appeares pale and wan, and vanisheth.*

Democ. How many proves themselves wiser by dying, then living; hah, hah, hah.

Clerk. Let him returne in peace to *Ghostland* Call *Trivius* to the barre; Hold up thy hand *Trivius*, thou art indicted by the name of *Trivius*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary* 1637. against the peace of the Common-wealth, the liberty of the subject, and the testimony of thy owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickedly; deliver up thy opinion in the case of ship-mony to be paid to the Lord the King; for as much as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, & it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity; What saist thou *Trivius*, art thou guilty of the fact, thou standst indicted of, or not guilty.

Manil. Why art thou silent? wilt thou bee prest?

Democ. Why not, I am sure that hee hath prest many wealthy widowes; hah, hah, hah.

Triv. I cannot for the present, tell how to defend my selfe.

Manil. Nor art thou like hereafter, bee silent and heare, this is hee whose wealth was more grave and waighty then his wit,

hee

hee had rather have a mine of gold, then a golden mind. Let him ſtand forth that hee may ſhew himſelfe ſutable to his name. Although wee ſhould leſſe contend and conteſt with *Gregorians*, yet wee are reſolv'd to delineate and draw forth in lively colours, the portracture of this Serpentine monſter, and with that brevity, that wee may not incurre the brand of tediouſneſſe from any.

Democ. Let us ſtand ſtill and behold this *Gorgons* head drawne forth.

Manil. That ſame *Trivius* that true triviall trifler, full of grace widowes, and a widow to grace, that hath more faith in his Cheſt, then wit in his breſt, that is rather of a robuſtious and ſinewous compoſition, then of an ingenuous and ingenious diſpoſition, an happy and fortunate woer, that did draw more marrow out of widowes, then out of his ſlender practize; hee ſpeakes much, underſtands little; pumps forth an unſavory Ocean of words, not powdred with a drop of reaſon.

Triv. O good *Manilius*, thou haſt deſcrib'd mee to an haire: I confeſſe my ſelfe to be an *Ignoramus* in law, and like a blind man was led by the ſleveleſſe ſleeves of my Brethrens opinions, moreover my Ignorance cries out ſpare him, have mercy on him whom God doth pitty, to wit, Innocents, whereof I am chiefe.

Manil. Thou haſt hammered forth a readier anſwere to mee then thou couldſt make a defence of thy cauſe. Ignorance excuſeth from the greatneſſe of the fact, but not the fact; thou hadſt an excellent preſident ſet before thee that ſame *Antrivius*, but now dead and reſteth in peace, that when hee languiſhed on his death bed, witneſſe his pen, would not reſt ſatisfied with their opinions, but thou art not onely an Ideot, but an Idoll worſhipper of money; not onely in the luſtre, but even in the ruſt, as thou haſt milk'd the widowes, ſo the Kings exchequer ſhall milke thee.

Democ. Fie, fie, the he-goate is to bee milke. *Ignoramus* is now whipped for his folly, one day robs him of that he was many yeare a getting: the Exchequer at one draught, hath ſwallowed downe all his wives fortunes, hah, hah, hah.

Heracl. Hee proſpers not in earthly affaires, that neglects heavenly.

Clerk. Let *Trivius* ſtand apart, put ſtronger bolts on the dolts legges, and manackles on his hands, leaſt his ſurreptitious goods ſhould blind the eyes of his keeper, and the lubber runne away.

Prim. As for thy part ô *Curious Acil.* thou approved waight, thy conſtancy and integrity as cleare as the noone Sunne hath purchas'd

chas'd thee honourable *Encomiums*, a Father of thy Countrey; a Constellation of the *Forum*; a generous plant and planet of Iustice, which hath eterniz'd thee a perpetuall memory to all posterity, and hath set so deepe an impression into the hearts of the living that no age shall obliterate, no time bury in oblivion; thou didst easily triumph over snarling ranchor, and having runne and posted over al the stages of thy life, hast rai'sd up so famous a tombe and statue Trophies of thy worth in the breasts of all, to whom no testification, no epitaph can be more precious; Sacred is *the memory of Curvus Acilius.*

Democ. What a deale of difference betweene *Trivius* and this *Curvus Acilius*, hee, as hee did well ken the lawes, so hee did rightly dispence them, but this Trifler did neither well understand nor dispence them.

Heracl. In this careless and drowsie age, as sowre grasse and mosse growes on empty wells, so vices by their sloath sprout and grow in them, whence wee see by experience old men more incurable then youth, sinnes are habituall in one, but disposition in the other.

Democ. Yet if they will measure out their houres with an impartiall glasse, the nearer they approach to their graves, the purer and uprighter should they live, but now mens dispositions are so infected that they most mind the World, when they are leaving it, and they never lesse view heaven (if they had lived well) then when they are going thither, perhaps the faults in crooked old age that deprives us of our erected lookes, and makes the earth object of our light, and so as the old proverb goes out of sight out of mind. Hold my sides least I burst not with too much laughter, youth growes decrepit, old age youthfull hah, hah, hah.

Clerk. Vnlock *Ioachinus.*

Roder. His soule went out of its owne prison before hee was delivered two houres.

Camb. He's dead and is much obliged to death, although hee did seeme to be an oracle of law by his subtle, crafty and intricate wreathings of his arguments, and did personate *Diomedes* rushing this way and that way, doubtfull whether to side with *Hector* or *Achilles*: so hee superficially plaid on both sides, affirming with a loud voice, I know whom I will not side with, but which part I should take I know not; therefore hee was so much more severely to bee punished, because hee did palpably sinne against a knowne truth.

The

The Ghoſt of Ioachinus *appeares bruſling with an horrid motion and ſo vaniſheth.*

Democ. The Ghoſt ſnatched him out of your hands! this ſuddaine death proves very opportune and lucky for him, better to meet death on the bed then *Tiburne.*

Clerk. Let *Hortenſius* come forth.

Roder. Wee had never any charge of him.

Manil. Thou ſayeſt true *Roderigo*, hee was ſo ſincere a Guardian of his Actions, that hee lived and died untainted; the memory therefore of ſo good and worthy a Patron is to bee deplored with perpetuall elegies: hee deſervedly obtained this title; *An honeſt Iudge, The poore mans Patron and Protectour*, which title is a greater glory then the empery of the worlds Circumference, hee ſurprized envy by vertue, and carried honours to his grave.

The Ghoſt of Hortenſius *appeares and vaniſheth, ſhining with amiable Countenance.*

Heracl. What pious cenſures are engraven on the graves of the vertuous.

Democ. Hence theſe proverbes or rather paradoxes riſe. Every wicked man a foole, no wicked man happy, no wiſe man a ſtranger, for every nation his native ſoyle, fooles onely are baniſhed, they are ſtrangers at home.

Herac. Hee ſaid well, hee is a ſtranger that enjoyeth not himſelfe.

Manil. Let him ſtand apart for an example and ſampler.

Cler. Call forth *Antrivius* ——— } *Cler.* Where hath he appeared.
Rod. He was called forth long ſince }

The Ghoſt of Antrivius *appeares and vaniſheth walking.*

Roder. Whether hee did appeale, he was manumitted out of our hands and ſhackles long ſince.

Pim. By what right, by what authority!

Rod. A certaine Peere of a froward and impious Spirit, demanded and commanded him to bee delivered, who ſtaying but a while at the doore, began to ſware and ſwagger; he would either come in or throw the doore of from the hookes, his lookes ſo fierce & grim put mee in ſuch a feveriſh fright, that my haire ſtood an end. I durſt doe no otherwiſe, but let him in as ſoone as hee had received the priſoner, hee tooke him by the haire and vaniſhed.

Camb.

Camb. Death is inevitable and irresistable, oh, had that man lived to those dayes, hee would have given such a testimony of his approved integrity in arguing about the ship-money, that hee would have escaped scot free and have made an end and finished the controversall case with his ripe and happy life. Let him ship peaceable in the night of his death, that florished in the light of his life, and the more glorious was his luster in his life, the lesse cloudy and raging hee was in the law.

Democ. Wee must speake nothing, but good of the dead; perhaps had hee beene lesse diseased in body, hee would not have beene so sound and solid in mind.

Herac. Thou saist true my *Democritus*, sicknesse wounds the body, but salves the soule.

Democ. Are not they then mad that have frantick soules in healthfull body.

Clerk. Jaylor, bring *Damocles* to the Barre; hold up thy hand *Damocles*, thou art indicted by the name of *Damocles*, that thou in the Terme of *Hilary* 1637. against the peace of the Commonwealth, the liberty of the subject, and the testimony of thy owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously and wickedly, deliver up thy opinion in the case of ship-money to be paid to the Lord the King; for as much as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity, what saist thou *Damocles*, art thou guilty of the fact, thou standst indicted of, or not guilty.

Dam. I confesse I am not altogether guilty, or innocent, if any well affected shall throughly read my Arguments, hee shall find mee much differing from the opinion of my brethren; I did not in plaine tearmes averre, that such a taxe was due to the King, the more moderate and modest my opinion was, it required so much the milder censure, my opinion was circumscribed with certaine circumstances, yea they were curt and concise; it behoves you therefore (most approved men) to tender my age, which ought long ere this to have beene manumitted from these turmoiles, and now is miserably worne out with age and cares.

Pim. O *Damocles*, this will not serve thy turne, yet thy deplorable condition is not to bee surveighed with dry eyes, when thou wast a pleader at the Barre, thou camest off with great applause, and didst never receive any bribes, and didst so stoutly and elaboratly plead thy clients cause in case it were just and supported with

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the props of honesty; yea (as it hath beene related to us) thou art miserably poore at home, and mightily in debt abroad; hence wee confesse thy poverty to bee an evident testimony of thy equity, these may much diminish and mitigate, but not quit thee.

Herac. O pittifull poore Judge, shall not thy poverty plead thee guiltlesse?

Democ. Hold thy peace thou simplicious, this foole deserves greater punishment then the rest; since hee hath florished such a processe of yeares without any intermission, seated on the highest benches, who had so many occasions of gaine, as baits of bribes were hung forth, and yet like a silly Coxecombly cooke would not a little lick his owne fingers, hah, hah, hah.

Camb. Wee have made an accurate search through this Lernean Lake, now let us move our Junco to other benches, and I much feare wee shall find as many Serpents in these dens; but how shall wee purge and clanse this Augean stable, that there may bee no place left hereafter for ignorance and impudency, as for *Gliciscus*, I should rather have said *Gliris*, Judge *Dormant*, you know whom I meane, hee that sits for a sipher on the Bench, the barren Baron that hath little wit, and lesse honesty, because hee was your tell Clock (ô yee purple Iudges) his punishment shall bee, to turne Sexton, and bee a Clock-keeper in the Countrey, for his simplicity pleads for temperate punishment.

Democ. How hee pricks up his Asses eares to heare his doome.

Clerk. It pleaseth your honourable assembly, that wee should descend to other barres in the Common-hall.

Prim. Good reason, they that loved to sinne together, must bee tried together.

Clerk. Doe you heare mee Keeper of the Blackrod, bring forth your great Keeper *Chrysometres*.

Custos. Hee is gone, he made an escape, hee slipt aside, he broake forth.

Manil. What Countrey is hee flowne into.

Custos. Hee is flowne into another Countrey, hee left his neast for feare hee should have beene apprehended in it, ever since his flight the speech is that hee sings now in *France*.

Manil. What madnesse possest him, how lively doth this point at *Chrysometres*, bad counsails worst to the adviser.

Custos. Leaving his Consulship, hee followeth the warres, and it is fresh in report, that he did play the part of a valiant Champion

in vindicating an aſperſion thruſt upon him, and diſarmed his adverſary. Gave a teſtimony that hee ſhared as much of *Mars* in his hand, as *Mercuri* in his tongue; the Lawyers ruffe ſhares with the Souldiers buffe.

Camb. How many eminent and excellent parts, hath nature prodigally caſt upon him, which if they had beene powdred with humility and grace, they had cognomentized him with the ſtyle of *Chryſometres* the great; honour the moſt pernicious rock to ſplit ambition, it eſtrangeth men from friends and aſſociates; pride like a mad dogge ſnarles and bites at all, home and abroad, and ſo it becomes diſ-eſteemed of all with a reciprocall retaliation: let Magiſtrates chuſe Magiſtrates & conferre offices on them that hunt not after them. As one once ſaid well, elect the refuſer, reject the perſuer. Hee that refuſeth magiſtracy is no dominering Vſurper: Let *Chryſometres* long rooſt in tranſmarine parts before hee bee called home, we have too many ſuch parates, we have bin too indulgent to all ſuch birds; let them take a ſpeedy flight and returne at leaſure, leaſt they ſhould deſtroy their mother that did brood and hatch them up: to wind up all, in a word, let all ſuch beeremoved. None ever more ungratefull then *Chryſometres*; for none ever more bound to the Prince then hee, and yet hee laid his owne crimes on the Crowne, when a conſtant and valiant mind would ſooner have ſuffered a 1000. deaths, hee would have reſiſted the threatnings of inexorable death, and laughed her in the face, like that Heroick Spirit that willingly preferred his neck to the dint, rather then father the leaſt aſperſion on his Prince, that had alwayes tendred his welfarre, and under whoſe wings hee floriſhed. Let *Chryſometres* depart with all his eloquence, hee was the moſt corrupt of all Iudges, the moſt wicked of all Keepers, and the moſt impure and ſpurious of all Solicitours. In the meane time, that I may not incurre the diſpleaſure of thoſe, that deſire rather quaint phraſe, then ſerious lines in this tract. I doe not deſire to delineate things accuratly and Satirically, but favourably and diſcretly not politely, but duely and rightly.

Democ. O miſerable happineſſe, & happy miſery, this *Chryſometres* in the twinckling of an eye durſt not ſhew his face, leſt his good name, his ſeate of Iuſtice, his fortune, his neſt, his nation.

Herac. O yee ſnowy honours that diſſolve and melt with the leaſt diſtemper of the mind, whoſe that that comes forth with ſuch aſtrutting garbe and poſture?

Democ.

Democ. It is hee, that was so well thought on of the Common-wealth before hee climb'd the bench of magistracy, but no sooner mounted, but lost his former reputation. An honest Lawyer, a wicked Iudge.

Clerk. Call *Brundusius* to the barre; hold up thy hand *Brundusius*, thou art indicted by the name of *Brundusius*, that thou in the Tearme of *Hilary* 1637. against the peace of the Common-wealth, the liberty of the subject, and the testimony of thy owne conscience, not setting God before thy eyes, didst most perfidiously, perniciously, and wickedly deliver up thy opinion in the case of ship-money to be paid to the Lord the King; for as much, as there was then no urgent occasion in the King to demand it, and it being solely in your powers to dijudicate of his necessity; What saist thou *Brundusius*, art thou guilty of the fact, thou standst indicted of, or not guilty.

Prim. Master Speaker, stay a little, this same *Brundusius* is to bee persecuted above the rest; I dare bee bold to say, that hee deserved the worst of all the Knaves in the whole pack, at the hands of the Common-wealth, for when all expected him their soveraigne Champion for the distressed Lady Iustice, hee proved her sworne and forsworne enemy, by which act hee hath made a great blot to his name, and a blure to his conscience, hee did see and yet stumble with open eyes, hee knew truth and patroniz'd falsehood, let him therefore have death, his due. If hee (as that same *Trivius*) had beene an *Ignoramus* in the lawes, hee then might have made some colourable defence, but to deliver up his verdict in defiance against the direct rule of his owne knowledge. O monstrous Monster!

Brund. I doe ingeniously confesse, and also call your ingenuous Candor to witnesse, that I by the sugarde whispering of *Chrysometres*, one while flattering, another threatning, did deliver up my fallow and fruitlesse opinion of ship-money. Of a truth, *Chrysometres* said, (and there is none (as you all best know) had ever a better faculty in the art of colloguing and perswading to effect his purpose) if I did not argue for the King, I should bee expunged out of his favour, and also bee outed of my honourable place by a write of ease, to my perpetuall shame and disgrace.

Prim. O old doting Covetousnesse! wouldst thou preferre a writ of ease before the ease and quiet of thy mind: what, the nearer thy end the proner to avarice, yea one foote in the grave and thy mind still runne on the World? Oh hadst thou but fore-cast how

little satisfies nature, and how little of that little old age, thou wouldst have beene lesse solicitous for terrestials, and more inquisitive after celestials; for you that have beene the torches in the law to prevaricate, ought deepely to bee censured, and having so pure and perfect a looking glasse of Iustice before your eyes, to wit, *Curvus Acilius* a man tired with age, yet of a vigorous mind and inviolable conscience; you had him. I say, for a president (although your steps were crooked) yet had you followed Crooke, you had not turned straight Iustice into obliquity. You know, you very well know (and therefore, a greater Iudgement hangs over your head) that golden chaine of Perianders never to bee obliterated, wee must doe nothing for filthy Lucre. Favour prepediats and trips up the heeles of Justice, for Justice is spurned at, where affection beares sway; Excessive love, and excessive hatred trample Iustice in the dirt. That same *Ioachimus*, that lately expired, did not demerite so great punishment, yet hee is for ever engaged to the fatall sisters, and is bound to kisse them round, for pre-occupating his arraignement. Although his arguments intricate and knotty, yet that same *Oedipus* with all his ridles (if the destiny had not prevented) had beene caught in a Gregorian nooze.

Democ. What more prepostrous, then an old Impostour?

Herac. Alwayes such events, when old men make Earth their Heaven.

Prim. Let us rise for a season, ô my select Brethren, and suspend our sentence, that wee may inflict a condigne punishment on them all. *Exeunt the Arbitratours of the Consistory.*

Enter Ramme, Priscilla, &c. Citizens of Smyrna.

Herac. Whither flow these troopes of females?

Democ. You may easily know them by their habits, they are Citizens wives, dainty ducks, which post hither to here the fatall and finall sentence of the Iudges.

Herac. Out alack, can their tender eares heare these things without the losse of many teares?

Democ. Dost you thinke that they are molded of a softer temper, thou art much deceived, they are of an harder constitution, they with dry cheeks, or at least, with dissembling teares, can take leave of their husbands for an East-Indy voyage; yea, they can pry into their husbands graves with a puling lip, but a jocund heart, and before they quench their funerall torches, kindle new lincks of love. *Herac.*

Herac. I wonder they should come hither this day above all others.

Democ. Dost thou not know the reason, heare and bee still, others are dayes of *Nisprius*, vulgarly *Isseprizes*, this a day of life and death, women have alwayes loved hanging and drawing in their quarters, better then Iustice.

Herac. They can see little in the Iudges.

Prisc. I will venter in, for if I shall but see Monsieur *Goute* the Courtier in the Hall, I know hee will presently open the dore unto mee, that have so often opened unto him.

Ram. Pish, pish, my little mouse, my little hony, my primrose, what businesse hast thou in the Court?

Prisc. What businesse hath the Court with us; hold thy peace my Tuppe, bee silent my little horner, hee shall bee no more my Cozen, if hee provide mee not some standing in the Court.

Ram. In good sooth, no Courtier shall stand with thee in his proper place.

Prisc. O my little prick, hee hath, and shall stand with mee, if thou displease mee.

Ram. Farre, farre, bee it from thee; O my little Lawrell, that such a brand of infamy, should bee cast on our stock, to have a signe in the forehead.

Prisc. What a peice of matter is it, art thou the first dub'd Knight of the forked order.

Ram. I believe not, yet I would not willingly weare my night cap after the new fashion in the City, when I am waking, neither would I willingly sleep upon a pillow stuffed with the shavings of hornes.

Prisc. Let not this trouble thee, they may better be fore-seene, then prevented; marriage and cuckoldry come by destiny, hee that is borne to the hornes, must weare them, if then it bee thy fortune resist not, it is hard for thee to kick against the forcked prick.

Ram. Oh the unbridled lust of a yong heifer.

Prisc. Fitteſt for your Oxes head, doe you grow horne mad.

Ram. Am not I lineally descended from the ancient family of all the City, to wit, the horners.

Prisc. Then I should doe you wrong, if I should bee the cause of your growing out of that kindred, it is very requisite therefore that I should Tuppe, to make you a compleat horner. The greater

family the worse for *Venus* sports, the more eminent, the more bent. *Cupid* dwels on Ladies lips, and keeps his arrowes in their quivers. You Monsieur *Tilley*, Monsieur *Tilley*.

Ram. What hast thou with that same *Tilley* the arrantst teacher in the Court.

Prisc. That I may the sooner get in.

Ram. It will hardly bee granted in these Sessions, no fit places for women.

Prisc. Why not for women? as if wee were not as capacious as they, yea, I warrant as deepe as they are lapidable: I will climb a loft, that I may heare and see with more facility.

Ram. What wilt thou heare, what wilt thou see? whither ô my cony doth thy lust carry thee.

Prisc. I much long to see the Iudges, for they say (and I would faine see whether it bee true,) that they have no more haires on their face, then a Iackanaps hath on his taile.

Ram. They are subtle enough without beards; *Barba non facit Philosophum, nec Cucullus Monachum:* they are so often trimmed, that they may seeme more grim and terrible.

Prisc. I had rather hunt after smoothfac'd youth with downy chins, then these beardlesse Seniours, with their frigid whineers, that keepe a brustling with their stubbed bristles. What are those I pray thee?

Ram. They are the Iudges that thou so longst to see.

Prisc. Hah, hah, hah; they will make could bedfellowes, that have *Decembers* icekles hang all the yeare long in their snowy beards, sure their couldnesse and frozen ware must needs beget whore frosts in their beds. Although women deni'd preaching, yet they might make very good Iudges, and save many a bribe, that they are forc'd to take, to bestow on their finicall Barbarian barbers; they are bubberaliz'd artificially, we naturally. O how wee should become the Common-hall; even as well as Pope *Ioane* the See of *Rome*. Wee would give lusty lads their law for nought, I my selfe deserve to bee Lord chiefe Iustice of the Common-plea, wee would soone make the benches groaning Chaires, for we would be great with our clients, we would make them carry double: they should have free accesse to our closets and studies: they shall soone have our hand, if they come with their pens in theirs.

Ram. Silence my little Leveret, since thou art here, and got a stan-

a standing; listen, what will become of them.

Prisc. This not the standing that I came for; Let them bee hang'd, it shall never trouble mee boyes, I can hardly bee perswaded that they are of the Masculine gender. They are a dry stock, perfidious Cattell, enemies to generation, hang them and their judgements.

Ram. Bridle thy tongue my little duck least thou bee noted.

Prisc. Their eares are stopd, and their eyes are blind with bribes, they can neither heare nor see.

Act the third.

Enter the Arbitratours of the Consistory, the guilty Iudges, Euchrisius *Clerke of the Court, and* Roderigo *the Iaylor, &c.*

Clerk. O *Roderigo,* bring forth the Prisoners.

Democ. O what a shivering doth possesse their Ioynts, hah, hah, hah.

Manil. Stand forth, stand forth, you most lamentable Iudges; you deny not, but that you are guilty of the Iudgement that you stand indicted of, neither can you produce any thing worth our attention in the defence of your senceless and miserable cause. You know, you very well know, a Iudge ought not to bee tainted with any crime that hee is to condemne in others, herein, how miserably have you failed, you have beene Judges and condemned crimes in others, that your selves have beene accessary unto. For a Iudge to take bribes was death, if they have beene so severely punished for one fault, and that against but one private man; what plagues then are to bee inflicted on them, which have shamefully abused and guld the whole Common-wealth, by sowing jealousies betweene the King and Subject, Subject and King; by promulgating opinions of innovation, against the apparent testimony of their owne consciences, troubling with tempestuous stormes the Halcion dayes of a peacefull King, and obedient and dutifull Subjects; yea to your power converting all things into fire and ashes. If such a combustion (for you carried your selves as firebrands and incendiaries) deserves not the Gallowes: I know not what it can better demerite. The lawes were first enacted for the

safguard

safguard of a Nation, but you have made them a contagious pestilence of the Common-wealth. You have personated the part of *Midas* with his asses eares, you were elected Commissioners in trust betweene the King and the Subject; which trust reposed in you, you should not have violated, neither for threats, favour, intreaties or reward: but you were soone allured, either for hope of gaine, or strocken with a *Carthaginian* cowardizing feare, have strip'd Iustice, and left her starke naked; yea, your conscience testifying against you, that you shamefully neglected her; you being thus surprized, either by bribes, or terrified with feare, have poreblind your inward eye of your mind, that you have given a manifest prose, that you are *Midas-ses* Asses.

All the Iudges. Mercy, have mercy on us, ô you worthy and approved waights.

Democ. Hanging too good for them, see that neck verse, which they put unto others when they were Iudges; now they are constrain'd to begge that they may have a Psalme of mercy. Lord have mercy on you.

Manil. The same measure that you measured unto others, shall be repaid to you.

Heracl. Good Lord, there will bee no hope at all left for these wretches, if they must have their deservings?

Manil. Prick up your Asses eares and attend; At your leisure and vacation houres I believe that you have usually read, that the *Germans* Conquered, rather with he good disposition they conceited to bee in *Drusius*, then subdued. For so soone as hee was dead, they stood againe on their owne guard, and began to taxe the wilfulnesse and arrogancy of *Varus Quintilius* for cruelty, and did easily obtaine the victory, the skirmish being quickly ended. As they were Barbarians, so they demeaned themselves as insulting and tyranizing Conquerours, and in that raging cruelty, they were more implacable against the gowne-men then others; for they were perswaded, that by their eloquence and mercenary tongues, that the *Romans* did first invade their territories, and were the cause of that lamentable warre. *Varus* in this perplexed time and slavery, was of the same mind as *Paulus Æmilius* was of, at the great slaughter, the *Romans* received by *Hanibal*, at the Village *Canne*, and died the same death; for hee thought nothing more intollerable, then the domineering of the Barbarians, especially towards them that are towards the law, nothing more cruell then miserably to dy in bogges and woods: They cut off some of their lips,

lips, ſome their hands cut off, one had his mouth ſtiched up, but firſt they plucked forth his tongue, which one of the Barbarians held in his hand, vociferating now at laſt, thou viper leave thy hiſſing. It will bee expedient for you alſo to call to mind that ſame *Manius Acilius*, that inſatiable gulfe of bribes, and chiefe Ambaſſadour of the *Romans*, whom *Mithridates*, with a great deale of contempt, made to beſtride an Aſſes back, and made him ride along for a May-game as farre as *Troy*, where hee gave in charge, that they ſhould powre melted gold downe his throat. Secretly intimating thereby, that the *Romans* were too too much addicted to bribery, too eloquent with tongues of diſcord and debate. *Alexander Severus* the Emperour, the great *Antagoniſt* of flattering *Sycophants*, commanded *Turinus* the Court clawback to bee faſtned to a ſtake in the Market place, and to be ſmothered with ſmoake, and the Crier to cry out a loud, as hee ſold, ſo hee periſheth with ſmoake, to uſe alſo the words of *Antiſthenes*, it is better to make the flattering Carkeſſe of Rookes a prey for the carrian Crowes, then the living ſhould bee a prey for them. It would appeare an excellent experiment of your prudence if you would deale by your ſelves, (who have beene ſuch a pocky infection of the Common-wealth, and by your lying verduites have diminiſhed the publique peace) as *Philip* King of *Macedon* did once with two of his Subjects, in whom no hope of amendement; hee made one to runne out of his Kingdome, and the other to drive him out, by which fact his Countrey was ride of both at once; both had a going forth, neither a returne. I leave the application to your ſelves, put you it in practiſe, runne rather then hang; make haſt to your ringleader *Finch*, hee hath taught you the way, the gates of the City ſtand open. Why doe you delay, had you rather bee hangd at home then ſtarve in a forraine Country; are you the unjuſt ſtewards, that cannot digge, and to begge you are aſhamed: take them Iaylor, pinnion their falſe opinionated hands.

Brund. It is the parts and property of every good man rather to glory that I ſaved life, when I might have cut them off, then to ſay, I have deſtroyed when I had power to preſerve.

Manil. To Commiſerate the wicked is to make miſerable the good. Liſten to your doome: as you have made the lawes like unto ſpiders webs, and as you have ſhipwrack this floriſhing Iland with the turbulent ſtormes and cragged rocks of your prevert and wreſted opinions, no place will bee granted you in theſe dominions; make haſt, make haſt (this your determinate ſentence) to

Ireland

Ireland make your arrivall and aboade there. For if you retaine your poiſon, you cannot liue long there, that Countrey will not nouriſh venemous beaſts, but if you intend to change your manners to make them candide with your haires in thoſe Ilands, by reaſon of the wholeſome temperature of the ayre, you may liue long, unleſſe the World ſhall be weary of you, and you of the World; that you ſhall thinke your caſe better to dy then to liue; you may liue ſo long, I ſay, by reaſon of the temperature of the ayre, that you may redeeme all your loſt and miſpent houres and time. Our ſentence is irrevocable not to bee revoked, therefore make no delay, prepare for your voyage, gable, askey, oares, anchors; the fatall cenſure of your regiment, with this character or motto: *The Conſuls cenſure, Hell for their hire.*

Iudges. It is a hard cenſure in the Winter of our age, and in Winter to weigh Anchor.

Prim. No puniſhment grievious where there is ſtore of Companions.

Democ. Poſt, haſt away without delay, let your returne bee late and long.

Remove the rod, their old age Ierke no more,
Let Iuſtice take their place, and they the ſhore.

Exeunt Iudges.

Act the fourth.

Enter a Conventicle of Plebeians.

Conventicklers. Speake out father *Pinner*, ſpeake out for the whole flock, for you are the mouth and oracle of all our *Conventicklers.*

Democ. Hah, hah, bah; O egregious flock, ô flock of Aſſes, I would ſay a ſwarme of droanes, now hell hath opened her chops; goe forth you perfidious generation of vipers, hah, hah, hah.

Convent. Speake out father *Pinner*, ſpeake out.

Pinner. Know all men by theſe preſents (dearely beloved brethren and ſiſters) that there are three things, eſpecially to bee required of us, abettors of the truth; Compaſſionate for the blindneſſe of the times, burning with the zeale of ſoules, and panting after the reformation of Religion.

Democ. This phanaticall reformer of Religion, makes my worſhip ſmile, hah, hah, hah.

Pin-

Pinner. Firſt, that wee admit of no order in the Church. Secondly, that all rites and ceremoniall reliques, to wit, Prieſts Garments, all ſorts of muſick bee aboliſhed out of the Church. Laſtly, that there bee no ſet forme of prayer.

Heracl. What a miſerable headleſſe Church theſe Dotards would make.

Democ. Bee ſilent and heare, ſee and behold, how theſe notted and round heads, with their prick eares doe liſten and ſtare on their predicating *Pinner*, and are amaz'd at his doctrine?

Pinner. But if it ſhall ſtand with your prudence, that wee admit degrees in the Church, wee would have theſe lay Elders rule over us, for which dignity none more fit and able, then thoſe venerable brethren of ours; Maſter Cobler, Maſter Meat-dreſſer, and Maſter Button-maker; (whom although *Greene* the Demicaſter-maker did lately oppoſe, and eaſily overcame, and conquered him with the efficacy of the word) they are men indeed, and in truth, but meanely learned, but wonderfully inſpired above all: wee will and require you, that you give ſpeciall notice to *Francis Holyoake* the Dictionary-maker, that hee marke with the marke of the beaſt, that apocriphall word Biſhop, and put amongſt his obſolete words out of date: for a perpetuall remembrance of the fact; As concerning the firſt article of our complaint, that wee will have no order in our Church. So in the ſecond article, wee doe abhorre all rites and ceremonies: whatſoever ſavoureth of antiquity, wee repute falſe and erroneous. All ſacerdoticall veſtiments in the Clergy, and lawne ſleeves in the Biſhops, wee reprobate and anathamatize them; The ſurplice, that whore of *Babylons* ſmock, or a *Gipſies* frock, bee ſmeared and daub'd with their menſtruous baudery, wee doe utterly renounce; thoſe Prieſts in their ſurplices appeares to us like Ghoſts that riſe out of their graves with their winding ſheets on their backs. As concerning muſicall inſtruments, wee have ever reputed them as *Babylonian* Timbrels, wee cannot really love our one Quodlibets the twigges of generation, becauſe they are called inſtruments.

Democ. Theſe men fitter for Bridwel, then to reforme Religion.

Pinner. As concerning the third article of our complaint, wee will have no forme of Common-prayer, no not ſo much as the Lords-prayer, it doth diminiſh the confidence that ought to bee, had in the Spirit: therefore wee will have no Paſtours, either praying or preaching to come prepared; wee will have them deliver

the word *ex tempore*, that they may shew forth the efficacy of the Spirit, wee doe much approve of Turners Creed, and his glosse upon the communion of Saints, and that to wind up all in a word, All new Doctrines wee approve for our owne, all ancient, though confirmed with a 1000. Councels and Synodes wee reject.

Pord. Heare ô yee mad men, that old but wittie Rhime commonly chanted in the Iland of *Britaine*,

TAck tent to my saw my sonnes three,
Rob, *Will*, and *Tavy*.
Keepe well your *Pater* and your *Ave*
And if you mind your Fathers reed,
Stand close to your old creed,
But for my daughter *Gyllion*,
I wad shee wer'e well bolted with a bridle
That leaves her warke to play the Clarke
And lets her wheele stand idle.
For it sawes not for shee Ministers,
Farriers, nor Furriers,
Coblers nor Button-makers,
To descant on the Bible.

Chorus Conf. Away with these trifles, men and brethren, wee have given better attention to your complaints then they demerited. As for the Bishops, the naked and bloodlesse title we must debate; wee meddle not with, and thinke it more expedient to cut off vices then offices, sins then synods. Surcease at last from all your doting surmizes, what is needfull to be done, and tendes to the peace of the Church, wee will have a vigilant and provident care of it. In the meane time, if not beames, at least those motes to bee plucked out of your sore eyes, they are devoyed of all charity, that love not the unity of the Church. Get you home, follow your owne affaires, it behoves us to have an eye to the Common-good for Prince, People, and Countrey.

FINIS.

F. 12.27.46

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Brathwait, R.